

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LENDING 01159 250844Z

21

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FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0885

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L L E N I N G R A D 1 1 5 9

EO 11652GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PROP, CH, UR

SUBJ: CRITICISM OF CHINESE ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS

REF: MOSCOW 16991

1. BEGIN SUMMARYJC A LENINGRAD PROPAGANDIST CASTIGATED THE CONTENT AND ALLEGED PURPOSES OF THE CHINESE TELEGRAM TO SOVIET GOVERNMENT ON OCCASION OF 57TH ANNIVERSARY OF REVOLUTION. END SUMMARY.

2. A VETERAN LENINGRAD PROPAGANDIST, MIKHAIL DMITRIYEVICH SOLOV'YEV, HAD HARSH WORDS FOR CHINESE AT A REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS HELD ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24. THE MATTER OF CHINESE ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS AROSE IN CONTEXT OF SOLOV'YEV'S REMARKS ON OVERALL US-SOVIET RELATIONS AND, SPECIFICALLY, SUMMIT MEETING AT VLADIVOSTOK. FAR EAST SETTING FOR FORD-BREZHNEV MEETING WAS DESCRIBED AS SYMOBOLIC
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PAGE 02 LENDING 01159 250844Z

OF EXTREME IMPORTANCE OF AN AREA WHERE FOUR POWERS-- US, USSR,

CHINA, AND JAPAN--COME TOGETHER.

3. SOLOV'YEV WARMED UP WITH A FEW PRELIMINARY BLOWS AT RECENT CHINESE PRESS ARTICLES SETTING FORTH "MAOIST CLAIMS TO SOVIET TERRITORY" AND CHINESE CRITICISM OF SOVIET DISARMAMENT PROPOSALS IN UNITED NATIONS. HE THEN THOROUGHLY DENOUNCED CONTENT AND ASSORTED INTENTIONS OF CHINESE MESSAGE TO USSR MARKING 57TH ANNIVERSARY OF SOVIET REVOLUTION. THE CONTENT WAS SAID TO BE AN APPROPRIATE FOR A SUPPOSED CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE, DESIGNED TO DECEIVE (OBMANYVAT') BOTH RECIPIENTS AND OTHER COUNTRIES. INTER ALIA, SOLOV'YEV ANALYZED MESSAGE'S TRUE PURPOSE AS FOLLOWS:

A. DESIGNED FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES TO PRESENT CHINA AS BEING REASONABLE AND WILLING TO MAKE STATED OFFERS AS A GREAT GESTURE;

B. INTENDED TO PROMOTE BELIEF IN WESTERN EUROPE THAT CHINESE HAVE SOFTENED AND THEREBY ENLIST EUROPEAN ASSISTANCE IN COMPLETELY UNCHANGED ANTI-SOVIET PURPOSES OF MAOIST LEADERSHIP.

C. AS A TACTICAL PLOY TO EXPLOIT FORD-BREZHNEV MEETING, AGAIN BY APPEARING REASONABLE WITH THEIR PROPOSALS, MINDFUL OF FACT THAT KISSINGER WILL BE VISITING PEKING AFTER VLADIVOSTOK.

D. AND, FINALLY, SENT WITH VAIN HOPE THAT SOVIET UNION MIGHT BE DECEIVED WITH THEIR PROPOSALS. FOR EXAMPLE, PROPOSED WITHDRAWAL OF FORCES FROM BORDER AREAS WAS OFFERED ONLY TO GET SOVIET UNION TO RECOGNIZE THESE AREAS AS DISPUTED (SPORNY), ENABLING CHINESE TO THEN HOLD THIS UP AS PROOF THAT IT IS ALL THEIR TERRITORY ANYWAY.

4. PROPAGANDIST CONCLUDED HIS CRITICAL DISCOURSE ON MAOISTS AND THEIR MESSAGES BY NOTING SIGNIFICANCE OF KISSINGER'S FORTHCOMING MEETING WITH NEW CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER. SOLOV'YEV PROFESSED TO FIND IT ESPECIALLY SIGNIFICANT THAT CHIAO KUAN-HUA IS A "FLUENT SPEAKER OF ENGLISH AND GERMAN," ALLEGING THAT COMMUNICATION WITH SECRETARY WOULD BE CORRESPONDINGLY GREATER. AS A MATTER OF PROTOCOL, CHIAO'S PREVIOUS STATUS AS A DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER WAS SAID TO BE SUFFICIENT TO ENABLE HIM TO NEGOTIATE WITH SECRETARY IN ANY EVENT. THUS, APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN MINISTER COULD ONLY BE SEEN AS A SIGN OF HOW REALLY IMPORTANT CHINESE CONSIDER THEIR PRESENT RELATIONS WITH US. FINALLY, CHIAO'S APPOINTMENT WAS DESCRIBED AS CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 LENDING 01159 250844Z

A FAVORABLE SIGN OF CHOU EN-LAI'S POSITION SINCE THE TWO ARE CLOSELY ASSOCIATED.

5. COMMENT: THIS PROPAGANDA PLAYBACK ON ANNIVERSARY MESSAGE INDICATES THAT IT IS NOT BY ANY MEANS REGARDED AS A BASIS FOR A NEW DEPARTURE IN SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS. AS NOTED BY EMBASSY MOSCOW, SOME WESTERN REPORTERS SEEM TO HAVE EXAGGERATED ITS SIGNIFICANCE.
NEUBERT

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